



Foggy Bottom News

Published for and by the Citizens of Foggy Bottom

SEEN AROUND THE BOTTOM

• Last month I got carried away; I wrote my regular column plus the special on Lena Sebastian. Our good editor choked—for once she has too much copy for the paper. So decision making time came; which part of Seen Around would carry over 'til next month? No contest—Lena stayed in. So this month you are getting some of last month's miscellaneous items which, I hope, are still of interest. Here goes:

• Come July 1 at 6 AM our Foggy Bottom METRO Station will open!!!! (See the special article on this elsewhere in this issue; I'm trying to drum up a community welcome, so be sure to read it.)

• Have you noticed the work going on at the NE corner of 26th and K? Remember when I reported the disgraceful condition of that lot next to those two lovely old houses with such well kept yards? Somebody must have heard me (or read me); they are really cleaning it up and out. Haven't found out yet what is being built there—no sign except the name of the construction contractor. I will though; maybe before this goes to press.

• Have you ever wondered why METRO doesn't run Mini-Buses on some of our not too heavily used runs in Foggy Bottom instead of the regular large size buses? Metro says the answer is that the cost difference is so negligible as to make it not worthwhile. The biggest cost is in the labor—the drivers. Same price for little bus as big bus. Mini bus maintenance is considerable and to have to stock added and different parts, different mechanic training, etc. makes it not economically practical. So now you know.

• The St. Mary's Sr. Adult Fellows had a terrific bazaar—when you sell all (or almost all) of your items that's a terrific bazaar! That's what they did; all baked goods literally flew away, special exotic refreshments sold like "hot cakes", Ceil Amato's hand crocheted items disappeared—bang! And all other boutique items really moved. Everything was spick and span clean; the place and the items. To me that is a real plus.

The Senior citizens and their friends who helped them really worked for months getting ready and all day of the bazaar; selling and playing host to the 150 or so FB neighbors who attended. Diane Tucker's mother and father, Mr. and Mrs. Lee W. Downey, came down from Brooklyn, NY to help with the baking and cooking. Both were terrific—the goodies and Diane's parents. Diane wishes to thank all the FB residents who helped make the bazaar a success.

A hand made afghan was raffled at the bazaar (can still buy a ticket); drawing will be June 28 at St. Mary's. Mary Miles made

the lovely afghan. On June 28 from Noon to 4 PM the Club is throwing a party. They will be one year old. They will have music, songs, games, luncheon, etc. all are welcome. To participate in the luncheon you must be 60 years of age or older and reservations are necessary. Call Diane Tucker at 333-3969.

• One of our area residents has suggested that we request the City to officially name the circle at New Hampshire and Virginia Avenues and 25th St. (where the statue commemorating Mexico's President Benito Juarez is located). She feels this will lend some prestige to the area and will definitely assist taxi drivers, delivery services, visitors, etc. to locate the area. What do you think? Let us know. Suggest a name. Send you suggestions to me at 2475 Va. Ave.

• The lovely new plantings at Metro's "Round House" at Va. Ave. and Rock Creek Parkway and the two new parks at 20th and Pa. Ave., were really suffering for the lack of attention and water. A telephone call got them some attention so maybe they will spruce up.

• Speaking of parks, the City plots around George Washington Circle are a disgrace to our neighborhood; there are more grass and weeds than shrubbery. Let's all call the Mayor's office and John Wilson's office (our Ward Councilman) at NA 8-6000 to complain. The plots have been like that for months. The only way we will get out fair share of attention, time, effort and funds of the District is to let them know we are here. We are a high tax paying area so LET'S DO IT! John Wilson, how can you miss this ugly sight?

• Were you one of the "all day sidewalk superintendents" watching a new air conditioning cooling tower being lifted up to the roof of the Potomac Plaza recently? What a crane! It took up the whole block of H Street between 24th and 25th. Hopefully no one minded the traffic congestion caused by that crazy erector set as the PP residents can't wait for all that nice cool air from the new tower. And right behind this grand elevation the Watergate had crane action—a sofa which couldn't fit into the Service Elevator had to be lifted down from the 7th floor of Watergate East. More cricks and kinks in quite a few necks after several hours of watching.

• Have you ever seen a Drape-Mobile? Well, I have. While watching the PP crane activity I saw this truck with a huge dry cleaning machine in it just working away at full speed. I checked it out with the operator and found that it was dry cleaning the drapes of the Guest Quarters—doing it right on the spot. I was told that this service is something new in our Washington area (they have it in Los Angeles

and Boston); they clean drapes of apartment building lobbies, hospitals, hotels, motels and office buildings right on the spot; take 'em down and put 'em back up in a matter of a few hours. Quite an operation. The old saying is true—"where there is a need someone will find a way". The Potomac Plaza tried the service and reports it was very satisfactory.

Remember the night of the big wind (40/50/60 miles an hour)? The night DC Councilman Jerry Moore held a special hearing in Foggy Bottom on the Eye Street closing? That big wind kept some of us from the hearing but not all; about 70 brave souls were blown up or down our various streets but we made it to St. Paul's and had a very good hearing; no decision yet, but a good hearing. That same big wind did in Dagmar Christianson, resident of the Potomac Plaza. She was coming home when she was blown down by the wind in Foggy Bottom and she suffered serious injury. Thankfully she is coming along well now. When the wind blows in the Bottom it really blows!

• I couldn't believe my eyes one morning about 9 o'clock when a school bus stopped at the tulip display at Juarez Circle and a teen age boy jumped out, ripped up a half dozen or so tulips, jumped back on the waiting bus and the driver gunned the bus and away they went.

The evening view from the picture window of St. Paul's Parish Hall is delightfully interesting. It's worth attending an FBA meeting to look out the window. Come see.

• For those people walking by the Potomac Plaza who have missed the congenial Doorman we're sorry to report that Raymond Parker, the PP's doorman for 13 years, suffered a serious heart attack and cannot work any longer. He will be missed by PP residents and by those Foggy Bottom residents taking that rou-

SQUARE 121 HEARING

The fourth session of the Square 121 (World Bank Building) zoning hearing was held at the District Bldg. on Monday June 6. Mostly heard was opposition testimony from the community.

There's still more to come, though. The continuation will occur on Thursday, June 30 at 4 PM at the District Bldg. It is Zoning Commission Case No. 76-14P.

If you would like to make your views known, or just be a spectator, do come. It promises to be lively.

For further information, call Ann Loikow (337-2879) or Harold Davitt (333-0017)

NEXT MEETING:

MONDAY, JUNE 27

The Association will recess for the summer

Happy Vacation to Everyone!

8 PM
St. Paul's Parish House
2430 'K' Street, NW

OFFICERS NOMINATED FOR FOGGY BOTTOM 1977-1978

President—Robert H. Charles, Jr.
Vice President—Dirck Holscher
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Treasurer—Janet Axtell
Executive Board: Eleanor Becker, Mary Healy, Ken Durham, Melvin Ogden, Marthlu Bledsoe, Richard Palco

METRO STATION HERE AT LAST

On July 1 at 6 AM our Station at 23/24th and Eye Streets will open for passengers!! It will be part of the new 12 miles of the total system opening on that day.

Some of us have been waiting 20 years for this event and now almost can't wait until July 1. This station will mean a great deal to our community in the way of rapid transportation and hopefully in the reduction of automobile traffic and parkings in our area.

The papers will be full of information on the 12 mile opening during June; you can pick up all the details there about routes and rates and bus connections, etc.

We've waited so long for our FB Station that it seems we ought to celebrate its opening. How many of you are game to meet that 6AM train as it pulls into the Station and to take the ride through the entire 12 miles?

It will only take one hour to make the entire round trip from here to the Armory and back to the Washington National Airport and then back home to Foggy Bottom. You can take the trip and still get to work on time! Let's do it; let's make it a community party; let's bring out the whole community in a big demonstration of our civic pride.

If we can work up enough enthusiasm (in spite of the 6 AM hour) I think we can get some newspaper and maybe TV coverage and I know we can have some fun. Metro will assign a Public Relations person to explain the different stations to us as we go by. The Round-trip fare will be forty cents; how else could you have so much fun for so little?

If you are interested fill out the form below and get it to me; this way we can see if the planning effort is worthwhile and also we can see how much life we've still got left in us—poor Ellie Becker says "6AM!!!"

Tear Here

I plan to participate in the Foggy Bottom Metro Station opening. I will be at the station before 6AM.

Name _____

Address _____

Tel. Number _____

(If we get enough interest we will get back to you to tell you IT IS ON. Send form to me at 2475 Va. Ave. #329, or drop it by my front desk).

Mary Healy

Tear Here

FROM HAMBURG TO L'ENFANT'S CAPITAL CITY

The origins of urban Foggy Bottom occurred at the time when port towns were being established along the Potomac River. Many of these eighteenth century towns were sited along the river at the termini of tobacco rolling roads. In 1732, a tobacco warehouse located at the foot of present-day Oronoco Street marked the origins of Alexandria, Virginia. Further up the Potomac, at the head of tide-water, Georgetown was founded in 1751 to expedite the tobacco trade. Other towns, of a more ephemeral status, were platted along the entire stretch of the river to capture this lucrative trade, but few developed beyond the "paper town" stage.

In 1763, during this era of town building, a German emigrant named Jacob Funk purchased 130 acres of land. At the time of the purchase, the land was part of Frederick County, Maryland. Sometime between 1768 and 1771, Funk laid out 287 lots, named the town Hamburg, and recorded it in Upper Marlboro.

Hamburg was only one of a chain of nearby port towns, real or imaginary, that linked Georgetown on the west, Carrollsville facing the Anacostia River, and Bladensburg to the northeast. Country woodland and pasture intervened between these neighboring towns. Despite Funk's affection for a major city in his mother country, the settlement was often referred to as "Funkstown."

According to Harold D. Langley in his *St. Stephen Martyr Church and the Community* (1968), Funk's lots were carved out of nine north-south streets which crossed five east-west streets. The town covered the area from the Potomac River shoreline on the south, H Street on the north, 23rd Street on the west, and between 18th and 19th Streets on the east. Some of the narrow streets were named after those in Philadelphia, the nation's prime city of the mid-eighteenth century.

These streets were designated High, Arch, Market, Persimmon, Walnut, Locust, and Mulberry. Two sites within Hamburg were set aside by Funk for church purposes, one at the corner of 22nd and G and the other at 20th and G (present site of Concordia Church). No effort was made to establish these churches for a long time. In fact, only a few buildings were actually constructed in the two decades of the town's separate existence.

With the mandate of the Residence Act of July, 1790, President Washington selected the present site of the District of Columbia for the new capital city and invited architect/engineer Pierre L'Enfant to survey the site and sketch locations for public buildings. L'Enfant was directed to the lowlands section of the site between Georgetown and the Anacostia River.

In the process of devising the plan, L'Enfant was offered the benefit of Thomas Jefferson's educated advice. In a rough sketch map he produced in March of 1791, Jefferson outlined, with dotted lines, the broad configuration of a President's House separated from the Capitol by what he called the "public walks." Jefferson envisioned this embryonic complex of public buildings and grounds along the banks of the Tyber Creek at its confluence with the Potomac River. The Capitol was located roughly at the present-day southwest corner of 19th and G streets, and the President's House a few blocks to the west. Jefferson selected Hamburg as the site for the complex partly because of what he considered to be a "convenient and sufficient extent of grounds" and because, upon inspection of the shoreline, he found the river to be shallow for commerce. No wonder Hamburg had not flourished!

L'Enfant adopted Jefferson's general spatial arrangement of public buildings and grounds,

but selected Jenkins Hill as the site for the Capitol and a rise of land more than a mile to the northwest as the site for the President's House. Evidently L'Enfant had greater faith in man's ability to reshape land and water to make them functional as well as decorative.

He expected the meandering Tyber to be straightened and transformed into the major east-west route of the City Canal that would allow for goods to be transported into the civic and commercial heart of the city. At the Potomac shore between 29th and 21st Streets, L'Enfant suggested the site for a major waterfront market. When surveyor Andrew Ellicott redrew L'Enfant's plan, he sketched in an inlet or embarkation point at this riverfront location.

L'Enfant's canal and waterfront proposals were only half-heartedly executed in the nineteenth century. His most enduring contribution to Foggy Bottom lay in the street system of grids and the extension of radials that connected public building locations and parklands. At the site of Washington Circle, one of several major conjunction points of radials throughout the city, L'Enfant hoped to guide the growth of the future city.

These foci, reinforced by markets and other civic and commercial activities, would serve as the centers of residential neighborhoods. As the city grew, these separate neighborhoods would also grow outward and merge with each other. Yet, because of their separate origins, these neighborhoods would also retain their distinctive identities.

Such has been the evolution of the Foggy Bottom neighborhood around Washington Circle. The neighborhood's lasting special character is still treasured by its residents.

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Seen Around the Bottom

(Con't.)

te from work and to the shopping areas. Take care, Raymond. • Mr. Monument Parking, you are still doing a lousy job of keeping the parking lot at 24th and Va. Ave. and G St. clean. The trash cans generally are so full that you can hardly see the can; and the grass and weeds are a mess. The crud around the lovely pine tree which you promised to clean away last year is still there, only a little higher; and the grass has grown a little farther out in the sidewalk covering up the lovely old bricks. Mr. President of Monument, how about it? Remember, you are a member of this community; how about some civic pride.

• According to the table place mats at Blackie's House of Beef Massachusetts Avenue is the longest Avenue in Washington, D.C. and there are 20 circles in the city. Being a native Washingtonian, I felt sure that I could name all of the Circles in nothing flat. I couldn't. I got to 14 and was stumped. I called another native Washingtonian and together we think we got the 20. Can you do it? Don't cheat; don't look in the phone book or refer to a map.

(Con't. on page 4)

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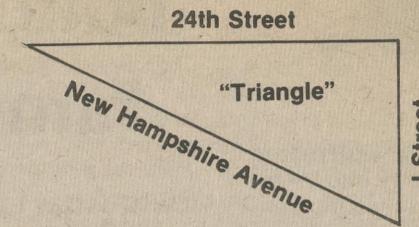
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TRIANGLE PROJECT



At the intersection of 24th Street, Eye Street, and New Hampshire Avenue, there is a small barren plot of land. Other residents have suggested that the Association also plant a tree and other greenery in the triangle.

The Foggy Bottom Association has decided that it ought to explore alternative ways of using the "triangle". Several neighborhood residents have suggested installing an attractive display board to announce neighborhood events. Neighborhood residents who are interested in how the triangle area is used and/or who can volunteer some time to explore possible alternatives should write Ken Durham c/o Foggy Bottom News, or call 443-1527 (weekdays 9-4 PM).

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Spend an evening dining in elegance created for those who appreciate superb continental cuisine. As you relax in our almost sinfully pleasurable atmosphere, savoring your favorite drink, we tempt you irresistibly with delicious hors d'oeuvres. Perhaps clams casino, or snails sauteed to perfection in our secret garlic butter. We cajole you with a continental menu that features excellent seafood and veal specialties as delicious as you can find anywhere; plus the widest possible choice of delectable entrees and wine selections to please your palate. Then we win you completely with a divine dessert. Creamy smooth cheesecake. Sicilian chocolate cake. Or maybe peach melba. Heavenly is the word. Finally our maître de' smiles warmly as you leave. Because he knows it's not goodbye—just arrivederci.

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THE URBAN SCENE

Stephanie Dingoose, the clever daughter of Stephen Dingoose, new to Virginia Avenue devised the twin grocery bag carrier shown here. It was Stephen Dingoose's idea. It came from remembering his paper boy days on the streets of Buffalo. Stephanie, the designer, opened up a Safeway Bag and enlarged it one inch all around for a pattern. The shoulder straps and hand grips were fitted to her father. They are for blue denim. **Fox Von Boom**



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